

REMARKS

The Office Action notes that claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Of these claims, 17-20 were withdrawn subject to an earlier restriction requirement. Therefore, claims 1-16 are currently under consideration. The Applicant hereby amends claims 1 and 16, cancels claim 3, and adds new claim 21. Therefore, claims 1-2, 4-16 and 21 are pending in the application.

Support for the amended claims and new claim can be found throughout the originally filed specification, claims and drawings. For example, support for amended claim 1 can be found in the last two lines of paragraph 0041. Claim 16 was amended to remove a limitation related to the “electric power source supply”. Finally, support for new claim 20 can be found in paragraph 37 and Figure 2. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added.

Drawings:

The drawings stand objected to as not showing every feature specified in the claims. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that the “power source” recited in claim 16 must be shown in the drawings. In view of the Applicant’s cancellation of claim 16, this objection is now moot.

In addition, due to the amendment of claim 1, the Applicant respectfully requests that Fig. 3A, presently on file, be replaced with the enclosed revised Figure 3A. Figure 3A was revised to include a depiction of screw threads. Support for this feature can be found in paragraph 0041 of the specification.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections:

Claims 1-2, 7 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fukui et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,002,928 (Fukui).

The Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is allowable over Fukui because Fukui does not disclose all of the elements of claim 1. Specifically, claim 1 recites an apparatus for forming a thin film. The apparatus includes “a distributor connected to the gas injector by screw threads, the distributor comprising a first portion having a cylindrical shape, a second portion shaped like a truncated cone, and a plurality of injection holes, wherein a plurality of injection holes are formed in the distributor and the source element is injected through the plurality of injection holes.” The Office Action identifies needle valve holder 7 in Figure 1 of Fukui as disclosing a distributor and gas supplying path 12 as disclosing a gas injector. It is clear from studying Figure 1 of Fukui that the relationship of needle valve holder 7 and gas supplying path 12 are not one of “a distributor connected to the gas injector by screw threads...” Rather, gas supplying path 12 merely acts as a flow path through needle valve holder 7. Therefore, Fukui does not disclose at least one element of independent claim 1 and therefore the claim is allowable.

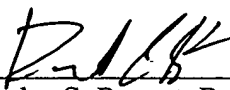
The remaining claims are dependent either directly or indirectly on independent claim 1 and therefore allowable for the same reasons.

In view of the aforesaid, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date:

5/28/04



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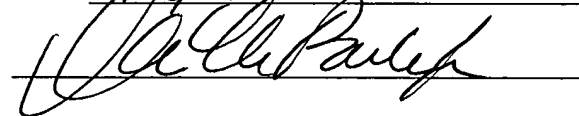
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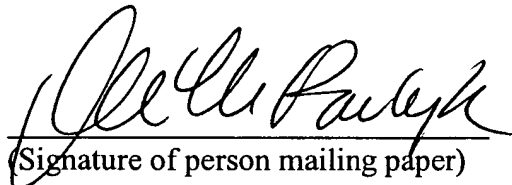


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